

REMARKS

In the Office Action,¹ the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0125993 to Gutta et al. ("*Gutta*").

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-9. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), because *Gutta* fails to teach or suggest each and every element of Applicants' claims.

Independent claim 1 recites an electronic device controlling apparatus comprising "storing means for storing personal identification information and personal information in correspondence with each other, the personal information including personal preference information." *Gutta* fails to teach or suggest at least the "personal preference information" of claim 1.

The Examiner argues that *Gutta* teaches the storing means of claim 1 in paragraphs 0031, 0034, and 0035. See Office Action, page 2. However, these cited portions of *Gutta* disclose, "a data storage for storing data characteristic of each person in the group . . . such as the individual's facial image or speech pattern." *Gutta*, paras. 0031, 0034. Although the facial image and speech pattern of individuals in *Gutta* may be used to identify a person, such information cannot be a teaching or a suggestion of "personal preference information," as recited in claim 1. Personal preference information includes, for example, favorite TV programs, favorite music, and favorite movies. See Applicants' Figs. 4, 27. See also, specification, pages 15-16. According

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

to the Applicants' claimed invention, electronic devices are controlled in accordance with personal preference information. For example, "if the reference to the taste/preference information about the person who entered the room reveals that this person's hobby is golf [then] . . . the monitor control unit 1 turns on the TV set . . . in the room . . . to select the TV channel broadcasting the [golf] program." Specification, page 53. *Gutta* has no mention of any preferences or tastes of the individuals. Therefore, *Gutta* fails to teach the storing means of claim 1. For at least this reason, *Gutta* fails to anticipate claim 1.

Furthermore, independent claims 4 and 7, although different in scope from claim 1, also recite personal preference information. Accordingly, *Gutta* fails to anticipate claims 4 and 7. In addition, dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 are also allowable over *Gutta* at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable base claims 1, 4, and 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-9.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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